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## THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMITTEE.

Following closely upon the meeting for the formation of the Bible Study Union referred to above, occurred the annual conference of the members of the International Lesson Committee in Boston, December 6. This was the first meeting since the International Convention at St. Louis, where certain restrictions, which had previously hampered the work of the committee, were removed. With much larger liberty therefore the Committee met to discuss the bearing of its new privileges upon the Sunday School Lessons of the near future.

All but three of the fifteen members of the Committee were present. A reception was tendered them by the Massachusetts Sunday School Association, in the Peoples Church. The Rev. John D. Pickles, President of the State Association presided. Addresses setting forth the preëminent desirability of uniformity and comprehensiveness in Sunday School work were made by Bishop Vincent, Drs. Hall, Broadus, Potts, Blake, Dunning and Mr. B. F. Jacobs.

The Committee further expressed itself anxious to consider the disadvantages as well as the advantages of the system, and to adopt measures for improvement wherever desirable. All work is arranged for 1894, but some changes were made in the lessons for 1895 by adding other portions of Scripture for study and comparison.

It was also decided to call a conference of committees to be appointed by the Lesson-writers, the National Primary Teachers' Union, and the American Institute of Sacred Literature. This conference will take place in Philadelphia, March 14, 1894, and there will be discussed the whole subject of advanced methods in the selection and treatment of lessons, and it is hoped that it will be found possible to adopt many of these better methods without breaking the solidarity and uniformity of the system.

It is needless to remark that this stands as one of the most important and progressive steps ever taken by the International Committee. The pressure upon the Committee from many sources has been steadily increasing for some years, and there is no doubt that the coming conference is the direct result of the generally expressed desire of the patrons of the system for some of the better methods which have recently been introduced.